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CHAPTER XIV.

For Once I Was the Hero.

I HAVE dwelt up to now upon the terrors of Maple White Land, but there was another side to the subject, for all that morning we wandered among lovely flowers, mostly, as I observed, white or yellow in color, these being, as our professors explained, the primitive flower shades. In many places the ground was absolutely covered with them, and as we walked ankle deep in that wonderful yellow carpet the heat was almost intoxicating in its sweetness and intensity. The lovely English lawns were everywhere around us. Many of the trees under which we passed had their branches bowed down with fruit, some of which were of familiar sorts, while other varieties were new. By observing which of them were pecked by the birds we avoided all danger of poison and added a delicious variety to our food reserve. In the jungle which we traversed were numerous hard trodden paths made by the wild beasts, and in the more marshy places we saw a profusion of strange footprints, including many of the iguanodon. Once in a grove we observed several of these great creatures grazing, and Lord John with his glass was able to report that they also were spotted with asphalt, though in a different place from the one which we had examined in the morning. What this phenomenon meant we could not imagine.

We saw many small animals, such as porcupines, a scaly anteater and a wild pig, piebald in color and with long, curved tusks. Once, through a break in the trees, we saw a clear shoulder of green hill some distance away, and across this a large dun colored animal was traveling at a considerable pace. It passed so swiftly that we were unable to say what it was, but if it were a deer, as was claimed by Lord John, it must have been as large as those monstrous Irish elk which are still dug up from time to time in the bogs of my native land.

Ever since the mysterious visit which had been paid to our camp we always returned to it with some misgivings. However, on this occasion we found everything in order.

It was about this time that I had an inspiration. My eyes climbed to light upon the enormous gnarled trunk of the glango tree which cast its huge branches over us. Surely if its bole extended that of all others its height must be the same. If the rim of the plateau was indeed the highest point, then why should this mighty tree not prove to be a watchtower which commanded the whole country? Now, ever since I ran wild as a lad in Ireland I have been a bold and skilled tree climber. My comrades might be my masters on the rocks, but I knew that I would be supreme among these branches. Could I only get my legs on to the lowest of the giant offshoots, then it would be strange indeed if I could not make my way to the top. My comrades were delighted at my idea.

"Our young friend," said Challenger, bunching up the red apples of his cheeks, "is capable of acrobatic exertions which would be impossible to a man of more solid though possibly of a more commanding appearance. I applaud his resolution."

"By George, young fellow, you've put your hand on it!" said Lord John, clapping me on the back. "How we never came to think of it before I can't imagine. There's not more than an hour of daylight left, but if you take your notebook you may be able to get some rough sketch of the place. If we put these three ammunition cases under the branch I will soon hoist you on to it."

He stood on the boxes while I faced the trunk and was gently raising me when Challenger sprang forward and gave me such a thrust with his huge hand that he fairly shot me into the tree. With both arms clamping the branch, I scrambled hard with my feet until I had worked, first my body and then my knees, on to it. There were three excellent offshoots, like huge snags of a ladder, above my head and

a tangle of convenient branches beyond, so that I clambered onward with such speed that I soon lost sight of the ground and had nothing but foliage beneath me. Now and then I encountered a check, and once I had to shun up a creeper for eight or ten feet, but I made excellent progress, and the booming of Challenger's voice seemed to be a great distance beneath me. The tree was, however, enormous, and looking upward, I could see no thinning of the leaves above my head. There was some thick, bushlike clump which seemed to be a parasite upon a branch up which I was swarming. I leaned my head round it in order to see what was beyond, and I nearly fell out of the tree in my surprise and horror at what I saw.



I Nearly Fell Out of the Tree in My Surprise.

that I did. It was a human face—or at least it was far more human than any monkey's that I have ever seen. It was long, whitish and blotched with plumpies, the nose flattened and the lower jaw protruding with a bristle of coarse whiskers round the chin. The eyes, which were under thick and heavy brows, were bestial and ferocious, and as it opened its mouth to snarl what sounded like a curse at me I observed that it had curved, sharp canine teeth. For an instant I read hatred and menace in the evil eyes. Then, as quick as a flash, came an expression of overpowering fear. There was a crash of broken boughs as it dived wildly down into the tangle of green. I caught a glimpse of a hairy body like that of a reddish pig, and then it was gone amid a swirl of leaves and branches.

"What's the matter?" shouted Roxton from below. "Anything wrong with you?"

"Did you see it?" I cried, with my arms around the branch and all my nerves tingling.

"We heard a row, as if your foot had slipped. What was it?"

I was so shocked at the sudden and strange appearance of this ape man that I hesitated whether I should not climb down again and tell my experience to my companions. But I was already so far up the great tree that it seemed a humiliation to return without having carried out my mission. I did not mean to quit.

After a long pause, therefore, to recover my breath and my courage I continued my ascent until I had topped all the trees of the forest.

The sun was just above the western sky line, and the evening was a particularly bright and clear one, so that the whole extent of the plateau was visible beneath me. It was, as seen from this height, of an oval contour, with a breadth of about thirty miles and a width of twenty. Its general shape was that of a shallow funnel, all the sides sloping down to a considerable lake in the center. This lake may have been ten miles in circumference and lay very green and beautiful in the evening light, with a thick fringe of reeds at its edges and with its surface broken by several yellow sandbanks, which gleamed golden in the mellow sunshine. A number of long, dark objects, which were too large for alligators and too long for canoes, lay upon the edges of these patches of sand. With my glass I could clearly see that they were alive.

From the side of the plateau on which we were slopes of woodland, with occasional glades, stretched down for five or six miles to the central lake. I could see at my very feet the glade of the iguanodon, and farther off was a round opening in the trees which marked the swamp of the pterodactyls. On the side facing me, however, the plateau presented a very different aspect. There the basalt cliffs of the outside were reproduced upon the inside, forming an escarpment about 200 feet high, with a woody slope beneath it.

Along the base of these red cliffs, some distance above the ground, I could see a number of dark holes through the glass, which I conjectured to be the mouths of caves. At the

School-Days are Joy-Days to the boy or girl whose body is properly nourished with foods that are rich in muscle-making, brain-building elements that are easily digested. Youngsters fed on **Shredded Wheat Biscuit** are full of the bounce and buoyancy that belong to youth. The ideal food for growing children because it contains all the material needed for building muscle, bone and brain, prepared in a digestible form. One or two Biscuits for breakfast with milk give a boy or girl a good start for the day. Ready-cooked and ready-to-serve. Made at Niagara Falls, N. Y.

The new fashions greet you!

FALL OPENING

Tomorrow, Friday, Saturday

These opening displays are an admirable exposition of the approved styles in—

New Autumn millinery
Women's, misses' and children's apparel
Dress goods, silks and trimmings
and all dress accessories

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"Any ignoramus can hand down his worthless memory by imposing it upon a mountain or a river. I need no such monument. Let our young friend give it a name."

"Then," said I, blushing, I dare say, as I said it, "let it be named Lake Gladys."

"Don't you think the Central lake would be more descriptive?" remarked Summerlee.

"I should prefer Lake Gladys," I declared blushing.

Challenger looked at me sympathetically and shook his great head in mock disapproval. "Boys will be boys," said he. "Lake Gladys let it be. No one shall have his way."

(Continued next Saturday.)

ON COUNTY RECORDS

Warranty Deeds.
John Knaack and wife to Axel Strombeck, pt w 1/2 ne 1/4 sec 10-17-1w, \$3,700.
Elmer F. Wilson and wife to David M. Lerigo, lot 9, Murphy and Sparks add, Moline, \$4,100.

How Actresses Remove Hair From the Underarms
You have wondered why actresses can wear sleeveless frocks or bodices of a diaphanous weave. You can, too, if you use

El Rado
—A sanitary lotion that will remove hair in a few moments by saturating the root and applying it to the hair. No pain, absolutely harmless. None back guarantee.
At all retail counters. 50c and \$1.00.
For sale in this city by L. S. McCabe & Co., and Riess Drug store.

Legal.

Notice of Publication.

State of Illinois, Rock Island county, ss:—

In the circuit court, September term, A. D. 1916.

Mechanics and Merchants Savings Bank, an Illinois corporation, complainant, vs. Stella B. Towndrow, Benjamin R. Towndrow, Peoples Savings Bank and Trust company, an Illinois corporation, Conrad H. Lininger, Albert Meyer, D. A. Beamer, A. W. Beamer, Missouri Immigration association, D. A. Beamer and A. W. Beamer, copartners under the style and name of Missouri Immigration association, defendants. In chancery.

Affidavit of non-residence of the Missouri Immigration association, D. A. Beamer, A. W. Beamer and D. A. Beamer, copartners, doing business under the name and style of Missouri Immigration association, filed in the office of the circuit court of said county, notice is therefore hereby given to the said non-resident defendants that the complainant filed his bill of complaint in said court on the chancery side thereof, on the 17th day of August, 1916, and that thereupon a summons issued out of said court, wherein said suit is now pending, returnable on the third Monday in the month of September next, as is by law required. Now, unless you, the said non-resident defendants above named, D. A. Beamer, A. W. Beamer, Missouri Immigration association and D. A. Beamer and A. W. Beamer, copartners, doing business under the name of Missouri Immigration association shall personally be and appear before said circuit court on the first day of the next term thereof, to be held at Rock Island in and for said county, on the third Monday in September next, and plead, answer or demur to the said complaint, the same and matters and things therein charged and stated will be taken as confessed, and a decree entered against you according to the prayer of said bill.

GEORGE W. GAMBLE, Clerk.
Rock Island, Ill., Aug. 18, 1916.
James W. Maucker, Complainant's Solicitor.

Executor's Notice.
Estate of Lottie Carlson, deceased. The undersigned having been appointed executrix of the last will and testament of Lottie Carlson, late of the county of Rock Island, state of Illinois, deceased, hereby gives notice that she will appear before the Hon. Benjamin Bell, Judge of the probate court of Rock Island county, at the probate court room, in the city of

Rock Island, at the October term, on the first Monday in October next, at which time all persons having claims against said estate are notified and requested to attend for the purpose of having the same adjusted. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Dated 10th day of August, A. D. 1916. JOSEPHINE C. LUNDBURG, Executrix.

Witter & Walker, attorneys.

Notice of Publication.
State of Illinois, Rock Island County, ss.

In the circuit court, September term, 1916. In chancery.

Freuk Melkush vs. Elizabeth Melkush.

Affidavit of non-residence of Elizabeth Melkush, the above defendant, having been filed in the clerk's office of the circuit court of said county, notice is therefore hereby given to the said non-resident defendant that the complainant filed his bill of complaint in said court, on the chancery side thereof, on the eighteenth (18th) day of August, 1916, and that thereupon a summons issued out of said court, wherein said suit is now pending, returnable on the third Monday in the month of September next, as is by law required.

Now, unless you, the said non-resident defendant above named, Elizabeth Melkush, shall personally be and appear before said circuit court, on the first day of the next term thereof, to be held at Rock Island, in and for said county, on the third Monday in September next, and plead, answer or demur to the said complainant's bill of complaint, the same and matters and things therein charged and stated will be taken as confessed, and a decree entered against you according to the prayer of said bill.

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